

Message Text

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21

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4982

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USMISSION USUN

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USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CY US

SUBJECT: MAKARIOS HAILS VANCE APPOINTMENT; PRESS REACTIONS

1. ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS IN INTERVIEW WITH ASSOCIATED PRESS RELEASED BY GOC DECEMBER 4 WELCOMED APPOINTMENT OF CYRUS VANCE TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE IN CARTER ADMINISTRATION: "I HAVE KNOWN MR CYRUS VANCE AT MOMENTS CRITICAL TO CYPRUS. HE CAME TO THE ISLAND IN 1967 AS ENVOY OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND BEARER OF PROPOSALS FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CRISIS SPARKED OFF BY CERTAIN SAD EVENTS, FOR WHICH TURKEY BLAMED GREECE AND DEMANDED IN AN ULTIMATUM THE WITHDRAWAL OF GREEK TROOPS FROM CYPRUS.

"EVEN THOUGH I DID NOT AGREE ON ALL POINTS OF THE PROPOSALS, MY MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH MR VANCE GAVE ME THE

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OPPORTUNITY FOR A PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE. I HAVE SINCE HAD

GREAT REGARD FOR MR VANCE. I BELIEVE THAT HE IS A MAN OF PRINCIPLES, INTEGRITY, GOODWILL AND WITH MANY ABILITIES."

2. PRO-LYSSARIDES TA NEA DEC 4 NOTED VANCE SERVED AS U.S. ENVOY DURING 1967 CYPRUS CRISIS, AND HAD BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH MAKAROS AT THAT TIME. PAPER CONCLUDED THAT "THE ACQUAINTANCE AND UNDERSTANDING WHICH DEVELOPED IN THOSE DRAMATIC DAYS WILL CERTAINLY BE USEFUL TO BOTH MEN WHEN MR VANCE TAKES UP HIS NEW DUTIES. WE CANNOT FORESEE HOW HE WILL HANDLE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM BUT THE IMPRESSION HE LEFT IN 1967 WAS THAT HE IS A PRUDENT AND MODERATE MAN DEDICATED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF LEGALITY." PRO-CLERIDES SIMERINI DEC 5 CALLED VANCE A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN WHO "APPEARS TO BE EQUAL TO KISSINGER IN DYNAMISM AND PERSONALITY. THE POINT IS THAT HE SHOULD NOT PROVE HIS EQUAL IN CYNICISM. HE IS CONVERSANT WITH THE CYPRUS PROBLEM...HE IS NOT PRO-GREEK OR PRO-TURKISH. HE HAS THE QUALIFICATIONS AND THE POWER TO CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY AND EFFECTIVELY TO THE FURTHERANCE OF A JUST SOLUTION."

3. COMMENT: MAKARIOS' REMARKS CONCERNING VANCE APPOINTMENT SEEM ANOTHER ELEMENT IN POINTED CAMPAIGN TO ENGAGE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND COMMIT IT IN THE EYES OF GREEK CYPRIOTS. THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN ANY TURKISH CYPRIOT REACTION, THE COMMUNITY'S PRESS HAVING BEEN ON VACATION AT THE TIME APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCED.
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